

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 03439 250920Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

EUR-12 CAB-02 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 FAA-00 ACDA-12

HA-05 /105 W

-----047179 251030Z /15

R 250845Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 694

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SEOUL 3439

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS/ SOPN, PEPR, KS, US

SUBJECT: KOREAN MEDIA ON TOPICS OF US INTEREST, APRIL 25

REF: SEOUL 3392 (DTG 240848Z APR 78)

1. KAL AIRCRAFT. PRESS HEADLINES QUOTE MFA OFFICIAL REPORTING US INFORMED ROKG RESULTS OF US CONTACT WITH SOVIET AUTHORITIES AND US ASSESSMENT THAT PROSPECTS APPEAR GOOD FOR EARLY RETURN OF TWO CREW MEMBERS. THIS REPORT COMBINES WITH MOSCOW AP REPORT CREW HAD BEEN MOVED TO LENINGRAD AND US "STRONGLY DEMANDED" PROMPT RETURN. ALL PRESS CARRIES FORMIN PAK SAYING "WE EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE TO US FOR ITS POSITIVE EFFORTS FOR THE SPEEDY AND SMOOTH SETTLEMENT OF THE KAL INCIDENT", NOTING STATEMENT WAS CONVEYED TO USG THROUGH AMB. SNEIDER. HANGUK ILBO REPORTS MOFA OFFICIAL SAYING "NO MATTER WHO SAYS WHAT, USG HAS ONCE AGAIN DEMONSTRATED IT IS OUR ALLY THROUGH ITS ASSISTANCE IN DEALING WITH THE KAL INCIDENT". WITH EXCEPTION OF SEOUL SINMUN WHICH  
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EDITORIALIZES ITS "MIXED FEELINGS" ABOUT SOVIET ACTION, KOREAN PRESS DOES NOT STRESS QUESTION OF SOVIET FIGHTER OVER-REACTION IN COMMENTARIES OR EDITORIALS, BUT ONLY THROUGH INTERVIEWS WITH PASSENGERS AND CREW. TONGA ILBO REPORTS FORMIN PAK INSTRUCTED ROK EMBASSIES AND MOFA OFFICIALS TO AVOID "USELESS SPECULATION" ON INCIDENT; TONGA SEES THIS AS EFFORT TO PREVENT ANY ROK STATEMENT

CONCERNING OVER-REACTION WHICH MIGHT AFFECT EARLY RELEASE  
OF CREW. KOREAN PRESS PLACES ON INSIDE PAGES WORLD  
NEWSPAPERS CRITICISM OF FIGHTER ATTACK.

2. JAPAN/DPRK CONTACT. TOKYO HAPTONG REPORTS JAPANESE  
MOFA ON 4/24 ISSUED /STRONG DENIAL" OF REPORTED CONTACT  
AND CALLED NEWSWEEK ARTICLE "TOTALLY GROUNDLESS".

3. TROOP WITHDRAWAL. PAPERS CARRY ALMOST ALL OF FORMIN  
PAK STATEMENT (SEPTTEL) STRESSING THE WORDS "REALISTIC  
AND RATIONAL STEP". EDITORIALS CONTINUE THEME THAT  
CARTER'S ACTION DOES NOT AFFECT OVERALL WITHDRAWAL  
PLAN BUT "IS SIMPLY ADJUSTMENT". TONGA ILBO VOICES  
HOPE THAT CARTER'S ACTION "IS FIRST STEP TO AMEND CARTER'S  
KOREA POLICY, WHICH WAS CONCEIVED WRONGLY AND PLANNED  
WRONGLY".

4. HANNA. PROMINENT COVERAGE TO HANNA SENTENCE OF  
6 - 30 MONTHS.  
SNEIDER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS, AIRCRAFT PILOTS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** KOREAN MEDIA ON TOPICS OF US INTEREST, APRIL 25  
**TAGS:** SOPN, PEPR, EAIR, KS, US, UR  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
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